

## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Between April-June 2007, The USAID funded Program for Ex-combatant Children implemented with the Colombian Institute of Family Welfare –ICBF- and other private and public institutions was able to assist 111 new boys and girls disengaged from illegal armed groups (IAG). This adds up to a total of 3,468, out of which 254 are indigenous and/or Afro-Colombian children. Regarding assistance and protection services, 538 children and youths were benefited this quarter.

On May 8, 2007 the new Childhood and Adolescents Code, Law 1098, came into force, which acknowledges and protects the rights of Colombian boys, girls and adolescents. The new procedures of juvenile penal responsibility will be implemented gradually in the cities of Bogotá and Cali. This Law seeks to guarantee the personal integrity of boys, girls and adolescents through reparation and reestablishment of rights, enhancing the co responsibility of State, family and society. Consultant Beatriz Linares, worked with the program in the dissemination of the Childhood and Adolescence Code; 680 public servants from the cities of Bucaramanga, Sincelejo, Villavicencio, Bogotá and Armenia, were sensitized and trained on the changes and challenges the new Code, Law 1098 of 2006, implies.

This quarter, The *Assistance Component* of the Program provided assistance to 538 boys, girls and adolescents through the family, health, psychosocial assistance, education subsidies, training, supply, recreation and culture components of the program. A total of 111 new children and adolescents disengaged from IAG entered the program this quarter.

The medical services rendered this quarter were: 329 youths consulted a general practitioner, 282 received dental treatment, two received psychiatric help, 11 consulted a specialist and 41 received assistance on psychoactive substance consumption problems. This quarter, school coverage was of 90%. Complementary support was provided to 311 youths for school transportation and supplies.

A total of 394 youths attended the training courses at SENA and other institutions; of these, 105 began their training with the Initial Module. To date, a total of 1,262 youths have been contacted through the CROJ, out of which 669 were active this quarter, which means they were benefited with at least one of the services provided by the CROJ.

As a result of the strategy, a total of 810 youths have affiliated to mental and physical health services; 717 have enrolled in formal education processes and 343 of these have received school subsidies; 692 youths have been referred to labor training courses and 386 of them received subsidies to access these courses; 427 youths have found employment; 930 have participated in socio-cultural activities; 474 families have also been referred through the CROJ to different services; 838 obtained legal documentation and the total number of institutions members of the national network is 587.

During the reporting period, 22 cultural activities were implemented with USAID funds (recreation, crafts, theater, dance, music), as well as 34 recreation and integration events (field trips to water parks, birthday celebrations, etc.), 12 sports activities (soccer, basketball, hakido and taekwondo) and six sports tournaments.

The *Recruitment Prevention component* of the program provided specialized technical assistance to 98 municipalities of the departments of Antioquia, Meta and Casanare on the implementation of the new Childhood and Adolescence Code, as part of the projects on public policies on childhood and adolescence. Over 300 public servants, members of Municipal Councils on Social Policy, participated in this technical assistance.

This quarter, the National Ombudsman presented the updated legal roadmap for the assistance

of boys and girls disengaged from Illegal Armed Groups, and the document on Collective Rights for Indigenous Populations. These are the result of coordination and interaction efforts of all the institutions and actors that participated in last year's workshops.

This quarter, a workshop was held in Pasto on the legal roadmap for indigenous populations. The workshop was jointly organized by the Governor's Office of Nariño and ICBF. A total of 20 civil servants and 50 representatives of indigenous councils (cabildos) of the Pastos, Awa and other indigenous groups participated in the event. Issues such as community modalities for the reestablishment of rights for indigenous boys and girls disengaged from illegal armed groups were also addressed.

To continue with the strengthening of indigenous organizations several workshops have been held on community development, youth participation, cultural and educational initiatives and project formulation, follow up and accompaniment agreements. Actions have been implemented with several indigenous communities on food security, recuperation of cultural practices, and self-governance. The communities part of these projects are: the Sikuni in Meta; Arhuacos in Cesar; Paeces, Guambianos, Yanacunas, Kokonucos in Cauca and Pastos in Nariño.

Technical assistance and financial support was given this quarter to projects implemented in the departments of Nariño, Cauca, César, Meta, Sucre and Valle, with the participation of 2.438 youths from ethnic groups (2.288 indigenous and 150 afro descendants). New beneficiaries entered the program this quarter: 342 youths from the Sikuni indigenous group in Meta, 24 from the Arhuacos in César, 54 Zenues and 868 from the Pastos in Nariño. Out of the 1000 indigenous Paeces, Guambianos, Yanacunas and Kokonucos in Cauca, 300 youths are now beneficiaries of the program.

Support continued to be provided for educational, cultural and productive projects; projects on food security from indigenous groups from Cauca were also promoted this quarter. Out of the 16 supported initiatives, 56,2 percent (9 cases) are based on strengthening ethno education models. Likewise, 25 percent of the initiatives (4 cases) are for improving the quality of integral education and vocational training in schools. One of the initiatives was oriented towards the recuperation of traditions, ways and customs; two were oriented towards strengthening food security and income generation.

## 2. CONTEXT

On May 8, 2007 the new Childhood and Adolescents Code, Law 1098, came into force, which acknowledges and protects the rights of Colombian boys, girls and adolescents. The Law was officially launched by the Director of the Colombian Institute of Family Welfare (ICBF in Spanish), Elvira Forero, in the city of Bogota. The new procedures of juvenile penal responsibility will be implemented gradually in the cities of Bogotá and Cali.

Among the changes the new Code implicates are the legal age for adolescents to work (15 years of age, after approval from the Ministry of Social Protection); those who harm children and adolescents under 18 years of age will not be able to reduce their sentence, or obtain anticipated sentences, house arrest, or liberty on parole. This Law seeks to guarantee the personal integrity of boys, girls and adolescents through reparation and reestablishment of rights, enhancing the co responsibility of State, family and society.

Regarding the socio political environment, new illegal armed groups formed by rearmed ex-combatants have surged, which entails greater risk of recruitment for boys, girls and adolescents. According to UNICEF's (United Nations Children's Fund) press release of June 26, 2007, the areas of the country most affected by these groups are Nariño with the "Organización Nueva Generación" – New Generation Organization- (ONG/NGO) and Santander, with the "Aguilas Negras" - Black Eagles. In Cartagena, for example, approximately 100 adolescents and youths were recruited by an IAG. The same thing has happened in cities such as Cali, Montes de María, Arauca and Chocó,

On a sad note, 11 Congressmen that had been kidnapped by the FARC in 2002 were murdered in June. This caused great commotion throughout Colombia; marches claiming Peace and Justice were organized in the main cities of Colombia. The family members of the congressmen are still pleading for the remains of their loved ones.

The IV Encounter of Governors for Childhood and Adolescence, "*Hechos y Derechos*" (*Facts and Rights*) took place this quarter in June 14-15, in Valledupar, with the participation of the private sector. The event was sponsored by the General Attorney's Office, as it supports the articulation of private sector and state as entities responsible for the social wellbeing and civil rights of over 16 million Colombians under the age of 18.

### 3. RESULTS

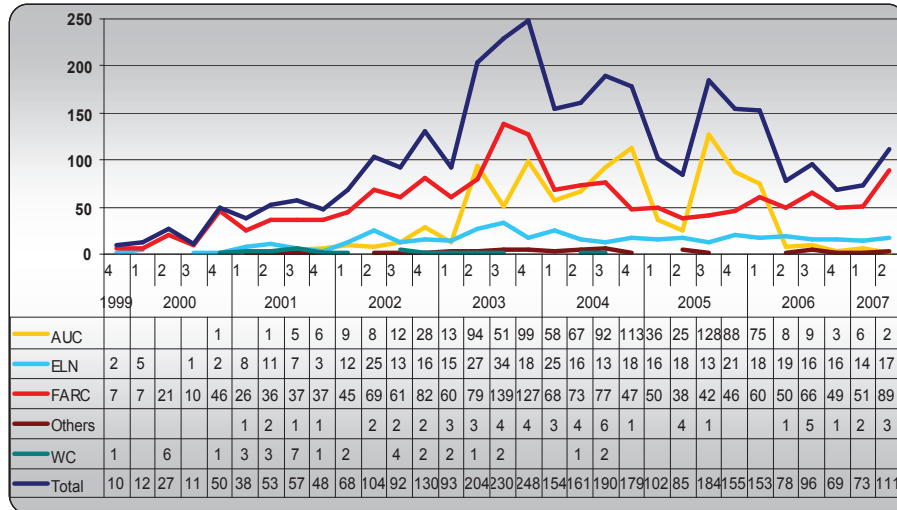
Accumulated results for the Quarter March-June 2007			
Indicators	Accumulated	This Quarter	Comments
Job Creation	1.371	68	The Reference and Opportunity Centers strategy and the sensitizing efforts and commitment from the private sector generated 68 new employment opportunities this quarter.
Employment Training	2.872	105	This quarter, 105 new youths attended the courses of the initial module at SENA, to begin their training by exploring their interests. In Addition, 30 youths from Quindío explored their vocational interests. A total of 394 youths were trained this quarter through the different courses from SENA and other institutions.
Access to Education	3.123	111	This quarter, school coverage was 90% (321). Through complementary supports, 311 youths were benefited with school transportation and supplies. Likewise, 11 youths began their leveling process.
Access to Health Services	3.214	111	Given the arrival and recovery conditions, it will be necessary to continue providing all the necessary support to guarantee access to health services in accordance to the needs of the population.
Family Reunification	689	19	Work with families continues to be an important challenge for the program. Family reunifications increased this quarter, which implies the strengthening of follow up strategies for these youths and their families.
Ethnic Minorities (prevention)	254	0	No indigenous or Afro-Colombian children entered to the program this quarter.
Beneficiaries at risk of recruitment	23.363	3.755	This quarter, 3.755 boys and girls at risk of recruitment from the departments of Antioquia, Cundinamarca, Bolívar, Santander, Sucre, Putumayo and Valle del Cauca joined the Program.
Ex-combatant children	3.468	111	Out of a total of 3.468 children assisted by the program, 3.214 have benefited from the programs implemented by ICBF and 254 of these beneficiaries are indigenous and Afro-Colombian children who benefit through the prevention component. Also, 111 young people joined the ICBF Program this quarter and 0 indigenous and Afro-Colombians were ex-combatants.

## 4. ACTIVITIES

### A. ASSISTANCE COMPONENT

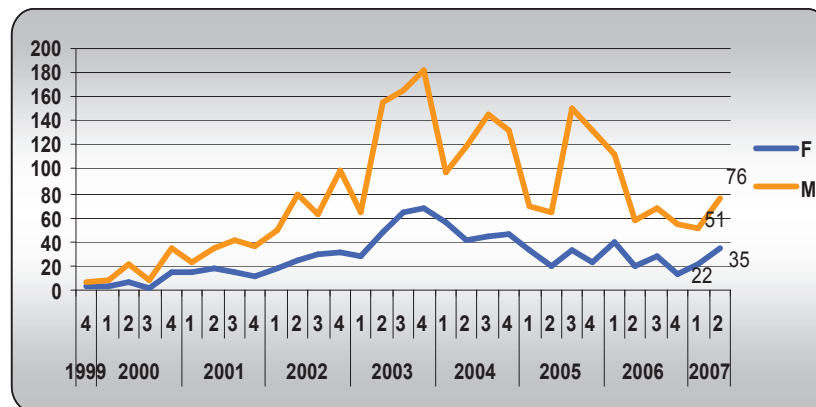
#### 1. TRENDS

**Graph #1 Entry of children to the program**



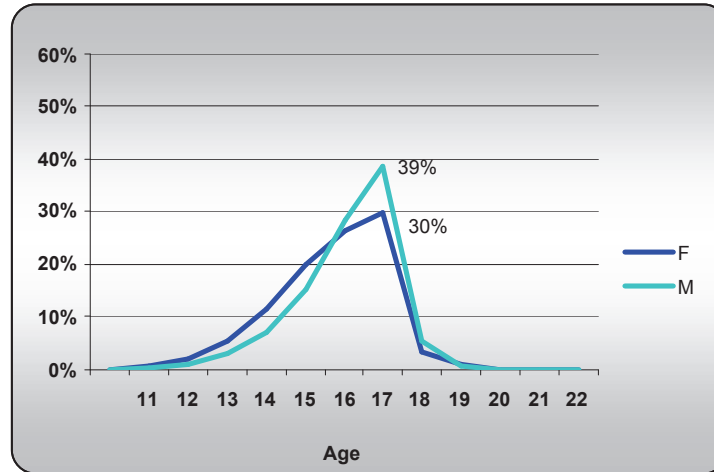
During this quarter, 111 boys, girls and adolescents entered the program; this number represents an increase of 52% compared to last quarter. Likewise, the highest number of entries to the program in the last 12 months was registered this quarter. This is due to the high number of persons demobilizing from the FARC, which had maintained numbers under 100 for more than a year.

**Graph # 2 - Number of Entries by Gender Vs. Date of Entry**



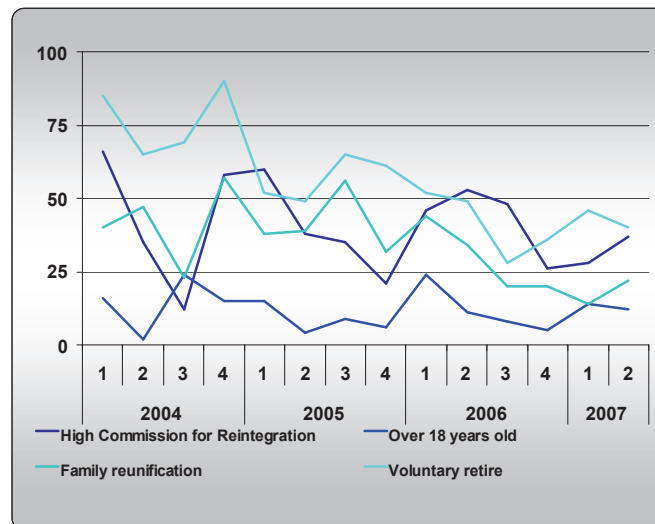
A relatively high number of women entered the program this quarter (32%). The total percentage of women that entering the program since its initiation is 26%. Since the second quarter of 2005, the number of women entering the program has been stable; nevertheless, entries of men have had strong fluctuations.

**Graph # 3 –Relation between age and gender since the beginning of the program**



The percentage of men and women that enter the program varies according to age. The number of women aged between 11 and 15 years of age is higher. For men, however, the percentage of entries after 16 is higher. Comparing the last two graphs, it is easy to see that the number of women entering the program has increased.

**Graph # 4 - Reason for Leaving the Program Vs. Date of exit**



As shown in the graph, the main reasons for leaving the program for the last year have been voluntary exits and transfers to the reintegration program. However, there is a decreasing trend in voluntary retire and family reunification. The other two reasons (over 18 years of age and reintegration) have been stable.

**Graph #5 Reason for Leaving the Program Vs. Entries to the Program per quarter (accumulated values)**

until June 30. It was decided jointly with ICBF to analyze the impact of this strategy and to reformulate this support for what is left of the project, taking into account that the cost per child per month in ICBF increased considerably. Complementary support will begin again in the month of August.

## 2.1.2 INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

**“Haz Paz” (make peace) Family Coexistence Policy:** After finalizing the 12 proposed plans (one interinstitutional for ICBF, one national and ten departmental), the evaluation and monitoring process for said plans in five departments (Antioquia, Valle del Cauca, Caldas, Risaralda and Meta) began this quarter. As a result of the follow up process the operational plans were adjusted, the indicators were reoriented, the commitments of each of the institutions members of the National System of Family Welfare (SNBF in Spanish) were reinforced, and a coordinating team was formed to lead the process in each region.

With regards to the support to the assistance model for boys and girls victims of sexual violence, the document “Assistance Guidelines for Boys and Girls Victims of Sexual Violence in the Crime Units” was completed this quarter.

**Training on Human Rights.** The activities of the Project with “Fundación Social” ended this quarter with an artistic event that included the participation of 10 youngsters from the different regions in which the strategy was implemented. Over 60 functionaries from different institutions attended the event. The general evaluation of the Project was successful and the final results include nine boards on reestablishment of rights with the participation of 150 professionals from ICBF technical teams, 23 educational boards with 110 members, 30 training workshops on Human Rights with the participation of 300 youths from the Program and 50 members of technical teams.

### **Agreement with Governor’s Office:**

This quarter, an extension to the agreement with the Governor’s Office of Bogotá was signed through the Complementary Assistance Program for Demobilized Population. The agreement was extended until December 31, 2007.

The new phase of the Program will work through four lines of action: a) The construction of two Reconciliation Centers for reincorporated population and their families, which includes children. b) For education, school and early stimulation kits will be provided. c) Recreational activities will continue for demobilized boys and girls (for the present, support will be provided to the International Festival of Children’s Theater with the participation of 2,400 boys and girls). d) Work with families and psychosocial assistance developed during Phase I will continue in Phase II.

## **2.2 FAMILY REUNIFICATION SERVICES**

### 2.2.1 Technical Guidelines

A workshop was held with ICBF’s Technical Director, Dr. Rosa María Navarro, the sub office of Guidelines, consultants and IOM, to share the solidarity model and the guidelines for the assistance and inclusion of families in the different programs of ICBF. The Technical Director approved these as institutional policies and authorized their publication. ICBF has yet to define the legal aspects of the document to proceed with its publication.

### 2.2.2 Family Meetings

This quarter, the Program supported the implementation of four family encounters in the cities of Bogotá, Armenia, Bucaramanga and Cartagena, where the application of the solidarity model was initiated with the participation of 98 youths, as shown in the following table.

REGIONAL	MEN	WOMEN	TOTAL
Bogotá	31	7	38
Santander	12	6	18
Bolívar	14	6	20
Quindío	12	10	22
<b>Total</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>98</b>

The pertinence of the family encounters strategy was once again ratified. It is a tool to support work with families by strengthening family bonds and supporting the social insertion of youths.

## 2.3 HEALTH

### 2.3.1 Preventing the Consumption of Psychoactive Substances

This quarter, the continuity of the support to ICBF regional offices and program operators was defined with regards to the management and financing of the ambulatory assistance Project for youths with psychoactive substances consumption problem; thus, a fund was established for each regional office to allow the hiring, set up and implementation of an ambulatory assistance process. Approximately 145 youths will benefit from the project.

An agreement with “Corporación Colombia Subacuática” (sub aquatic Colombia corporation) was established this quarter for the assistance of 200 youths in Medellín and Cali through a training process on sub aquatic sport, as a strategy to decrease the consumption of psychoactive substances. Additionally, the Project includes the development of artistic and recreational activities.

### 2.3.2 Medical Services

#### 2.3.2.1 Ministry of social protection

At the end of May, an expert on the Social Security Code (Law 100 of 1993) was hired to elaborate a procedures manual for ICBF functionaries and program operators, to help them find appropriate ways and actions to achieve the required access to and coverage of health services in each region. This consultancy will gather the inputs provided by the macro regional work tables held in 2006.

#### 2.3.2.2 Profamilia and Medical Services

A sensitizing, orientation, sample taking and counseling process is being implemented in articulation with IOM's HIV Project. The program seeks to position Sexual and Reproductive Health issues in the public agenda of local authorities, with emphasis on HIV and recruitment prevention.

REGIONAL	# DE PARTICIPANTES	# DE ASESORIAS	# DE PRUEBAS
Antioquia	52	51	50
Bogotá	30	30	30
Bolívar	25	25	25
Valle del Cauca	44	44	44
Santander	75	75	75
<b>Total</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>224</b>

Source: HIV Program, World Fund/IOM

The medical services rendered this quarter were: 329 youths consulted a general practitioner, 282 received dental treatment, two received psychiatric help, 11 consulted a specialist and 41 received assistance on psychoactive substance consumption problems.

Regarding access methods to health services, ICBF reports that 122 youths accessed with letter from the Health Ministry, 161 with SISBEN (National health service) card, 83 through ARS (subsidized regime insurance), and 47 through other means.



2.3.2.3 Human Development	2.3.2.4 Psychosocial Assistance
<p>The first and second phases of the Project with the Foundation for Reconciliation, whose model “Cuidado y Reconciliación” (care and reconciliation) aims to select and train young leaders to become part of a youth network and institutions at national level.</p> <p>The model seeks active participation from youths that have completed the program in reconciliation, reparation and recruitment prevention initiatives. The total number of beneficiary youths for this project is 1.050: 30 from the CROJ, 120 disengaged children and adolescents, and 900 at risk of recruitment</p>	<p>Progress has been made through the psychiatric assistance board formed by the National Institute of the Nervous System, Montserrat Clinic, ICBF, ACR (High Commissioner for Reconciliation) and IOM for the implementation of a Project that includes assistance to youths with psychiatric difficulties, the elaboration of a warning signs manual, training process for the technical teams of ICBF, NGOs, ACR and the local network.</p> <p>The project with “Corporación Vínculos” concluded this quarter and the pedagogical model was delivered to the Sub Office of direct interventions for the implementation of psychosocial assistance modules. This was considered pertinent and necessary for the technical teams.</p>

## **2.4 EDUCATION**

*This quarter school coverage was of 90%. Complementary supports until June were for school transportation and supplies for a total of 311 youths.*

*The project “Evaluación de Resultados de la Atención Educativa” (evaluation of results of educational assistance) moved forward on the processing of the tests applied to 322 youths. The individual analysis process of the tests began end of June.*

*For the Labor Competencies project, two workshops were held for the second module of training and transference of the “ruta metodológica para la formación de competencias laborales generales” (methodological route for training on general labor competencies). A total of eight workshops have been held with the participation of 160 people (functionaries from ICBF, SENA, teachers, principals, and professionals from assistance centers). The local education work tables continued to be implemented in seven regions (Medellín, Cali, Bucaramanga, Manizales, Pereira, Armenia and Cartagena).*

## **2.5 EMPLOYMENT PREPARATION**

*A total of 394 youths attended the training courses at SENA and other institutions such as COMFENALCO and CAJASAN. Of these, 105 began their training with the Initial Module in the departments of Santander, Bolívar, Cundinamarca, Valle del Cauca and Antioquia. Additionally, a vocational and occupational study for 30 youths was implemented in the department of Quindío.*

*To give continuity to institutional strengthening and articulation, SENA approved the Integral Model for Marketing and Business Administration (MIMA in Spanish), as a methodology for the formulation of business initiatives for vulnerable population. The elaboration chronogram for and the transference of the strategy will take place next quarter.*

## **2.6 INCOME GENERATION**

Through the alliance with “Tejido Humano” Association, 19 productive and housing projects were approved this quarter. With this, the first phase of the agreement closes with a total of 91 beneficiaries and 83 productive projects financed by the project. To begin second phase, the project will finance a jewelry project for 20 youths that will begin with the training process and is expected to become breeding ground of young jewelers that could form a company.

Additionally, the project “Gastronomy workshop” was designed and launched with the “Escuela Taller” Foundation of Bogotá, which trains 15 youths on cooking skills and links them to important companies in the field. The project seeks to train them and guarantee their

employment or to enable them to create their own companies.

In the project of Pueblo Bello, Cesar, 12 out of the 24 youths trained on entrepreneurship decided to form a company and continue their training on the production of aromatic plants and soaps; the project is accompanying them in the process.

#### 2.6.1 Coordination with the “Alto Comisionado para la Reintegración” –ACR- High Commissioner for Reintegration

The following activities were implemented to give continuity to the articulation process with the “Alta Consejería para la Reintegración Social y Económica” (High Council for Social and Economical Reintegration):

- Elaboration of a supporting document for the analysis of the differential assistance approach, which is currently being revised by the “ACR”.
- Comparative table for the current functions of the CROJs and those assigned by the ACR.
- Updated summary table of projects that have not yet been disbursed.

The project awaits the political decision for the transfer of the CROJs to the ACR.

## 2.7 REFERENCE AND OPPORTUNITY CENTERS

To date, a total of 1,262 youths have been contacted through the CROJ, out of which 669 were active this quarter, which means they were benefited with at least one of the services provided by the CROJ.

As a result of the strategy, a total of 810 youths have affiliated to mental and physical health services; 717 have enrolled in formal education processes and 343 of these have received school subsidies; 692 youths have been referred to labor training courses and 386 of them received subsidies to access these courses; 427 youths have found employment; 930 have participated in socio-cultural activities; 474 families have also been referred through the CROJ to different services; 838 obtained legal documentation and the total number of institutions members of the national network is 587.

It is noteworthy this quarter that some indicators did not maintain their increasing trend due to the changes generated by the Reintegration policy of the ACR, which has created an atmosphere of uncertainty and the youths have lost confidence in the process. However, the teams in the CROJs are implementing retention strategies.

## 2.8 CULTURE AND RECREATION

Due to changes of public functionaries and to internal dynamics, it was not possible to continue moving forward with the coordination with government entities; this has kept the issue of culture and recreation from acquiring the necessary relevance in the public agenda.

During the reporting period, 22 cultural activities were implemented with USAID funds (recreation, crafts, theater, dance, music), as well as 34 recreation and integration events (field trips to water parks, birthday celebrations, etc.), 12 sports activities (soccer, basketball, hakido and taekwondo) and six sports tournaments.

## 2.9 MONITORING AND EVALUATION SYSTEM

### 2.9.1 Reintegration Conditions Index (RCI)

The RCI was presented to the ICBF team for the assistance of victims of violence for its implementation in the transit homes. The team is currently working on adjusting the tool

### 2.9.2 Accompaniment, Monitoring and Evaluation System (SAME)

To continue in the same line as last quarter, the SAME continues to be efficiently implemented in all the CROJs.

for its implementation. The CROJ continues implementing it as usual.	
<b>2.9.3 SIMONI</b>	
<p>During the month of April, ten training sessions were held in the regions of Valle, Cesar, Bolívar, Antioquia, Santander, Meta, Arauca, Casanare, Quindío, Risaralda, Caldas and Bogotá, with the participation of 127 functionaries from the ICBF “Centros Zonales” (Zone Centers) and Regional Offices, attorneys, and technical teams of the implementing parties, who will be the main beneficiaries of the SIMONI when it comes in force.</p> <p>In order to launch this tool, an implementation plan was designed and it will be implemented by ICBF during the second half of 2007, with technical support from IOM. Likewise, and through USAID’s financial support, a server will be donated to ICBF to host everything related to this software.</p>	

## 2.11 LEGAL FRAMEWORK

The number of boys and girls with identification documents and the number of closed cases increased this quarter.

Total Young People thru Sept 2006	Legal Situation			Administrative Situation		Young People with CODA Certificates	Young People with Identity Documents
	Young People with Open Cases	Young People with Closed Cases	Young People with process cases	Young People with open Cases	Young People without identification documents		
<b>538</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>537</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>388</b>	<b>474</b>
	<b>31.23%</b>	<b>51.30%</b>	<b>17.47%</b>	<b>99.81%</b>	<b>0.19%</b>	<b>72.12%</b>	<b>88.10%</b>

The legal assistance provided by the interns has contributed to the efficient and effective reestablishment of rights for the boys and girls in the Program. The most relevant contributions of this strategy are:

- Timely assistance by the administrative protection process.
- Facilitate the obtention of documents necessary for restitution of rights (Civil Records, Identification Cards, Disciplinary Records, Military Cards, CODA, among others).
- Boys, girls and adolescents are informed of their process and most of them understand it.
- More than half of the Family Attorneys involved in the processes of the children and youths in the program know the actions and the legal situations (family and institutional) through the quarterly institutional reports sent to them.

## A Beneficiary’s Story

*Youth from CAE Nueva luz*

*Age: 18*

*Member of the AUC for two years.*

*“I was released by the self-defense group to ICBF Valledupar and I entered the transit home of “Hogares Claret” Foundation on March 2006; I then entered the specialized center “Nueva Luz” on April that same year. When I was in the armed group I was very aggressive, shy, thought a lot about my family, but all I had to look forward to was death because I had a lot of enemies around me, such as the police, the army, the “SIJIN” (Judicial Police), DAS (Security Department), the guerrilla, etc. because when you mess up, your own group kills you; I spent nights without sleep watching out for the enemy, I walked at night, and as they told us there “this is not for many but for machos”. During winter time, one got wet while sleeping or when you were standing guard. In the group one got a chance to mend all the negatives, there was a lot of communication with the family.*

*They paid you COP\$ 400,000.00 per month, but the money was cursed because it was spent on nothing. For example, you spent COP\$150,000.00 in three days. They gave you elements for combat, camouflaged clothes; there life was all about war.*

*I have been in this process for 15 months. The first days in the transit home were very hard, but I started to get the hang of things. I didn't read or write when I got here, but I now read and write and am currently doing third and fourth grades through the CAFAM method. I have changed now, I know how to understand people now. Everything was done roughly, but now I feel more confident; I don't have weapons or camouflaged clothes. Communication with my family is much better now, it's honest and real, because before you could not tell them everything that was going on. I am more relaxed now when I talk to my family.*

*I have been able to get ahead with my studies. I have been trained on bread making and on July 14 I leave to an independent home. I have been given the opportunity to bond with other youngsters and if God gave me the opportunity to exit the group, I would never go back because I was delivered from all sorts of dangers such as mined fields.*

*I plan to have a bakery in Dabeiba, Antioquia, where my mother and my sister live. The program has allowed me to have all my documents in order, because when I got here I had no civil records and I was not even sure about my birth date. I feel I have achieved many things such as being more relaxed, I talk more, which is a relief for my family. They are very grateful for all my achievements.*

*I am participating in the local Olympics, which has allowed me to practice soccer, the sport I like. This sport has helped me deal with anger and aggressiveness. I would give an advice to those youths still in armed groups and it is to leave, to study, get trained, have legal papers, don't be illegal. It is great to walk freely, because you don't have problems with the law. There is also freedom to make decisions."*

## **B) PREVENTION**

### **Main Objective**

The Prevention Component provides technical and financial support to government entities, communities, private sector and civil society organizations to strengthen public policies and programs that help develop and protect the life of boys, girls and adolescents and prevent their recruitment by illegal armed groups (IAG), which is one of the effects of the armed conflict in the country.

### **B.1 Legal Framework**

#### **B.1.1. Childhood and Adolescence Code**

This quarter, consultant Beatriz Linares, worked with the program in the dissemination of the Childhood and Adolescence Code; 680 public servants from the cities of Bucaramanga, Sincelejo, Villavicencio, Bogotá and Armenia, were sensitized and trained on the changes and challenges the new Code, Law 1098 of 2006, implies since it came into force last May.

#### **B.1.2 Formulation of Public Policies on Childhood and Adolescence**

This quarter, specialized technical assistance was provided to 98 municipalities of the departments of Antioquia, Meta and Casanare on the implementation of the new Childhood and Adolescence Code, as part of the projects on public policies on childhood and adolescence. Over 300 public servants, members of Municipal Councils on Social Policy, participated in this technical assistance.

The agreement between the Governor's Office of Meta, ICBF and IOM was established this quarter for the definition of public policies on childhood with emphasis on recruitment prevention and information systems, including a situational analysis of childhood in the department. A workshop was held in the Department of Casanare with the team from the Governor's Office, and technical

assistance visits were made to the 19 municipalities to present the roadmap to formulate public policies on recruitment prevention and promote agreements with local institutions.

## **B2. Dissemination of the Legal Framework**

Contact was established with the team of the General Attorney's Office through consultant Beatriz Linares to formulate an institutional strengthening project. The team is in charge of the cases of children disengaged from illegal armed groups and of implementing the opportunity principle for these cases.

### **B.2.1 National Ombudsman**

This quarter, the National Ombudsman presented the updated legal roadmap for the assistance of boys and girls disengaged from Illegal Armed Groups, and the document on Collective Rights of Indigenous Populations. These are the result of coordination and interaction efforts of all the institutions and actors that participated in last year's workshops.

### **B.2.2 Attorney General's Office (AGO)**

The final versions of the pedagogical training tools were delivered this quarter (CD, booklet and virtual course on legalization issues) which are to be used as electronic information and training tools for attorneys and judges. Regarding public policies for recruitment prevention, the elaboration of the protocol for public attorneys continued this quarter so that they can adequately follow up on the reestablishment process of the rights of boys and girls disengaged from illegal armed groups, in accordance with the new Childhood and Adolescence Code, which presents guidelines for public policies and a diagnosis of the recruitment prevention actions in the departmental and municipal action plans.

The protocol also contains AGO's concept on integral reparation, a document on the condition of victims of those boys and girls that become of legal age and are transferred from ICBF's specialized program to the High Council for Social and Economical Regintegration (ACR in Spanish) and a preliminary analysis on the responsibility of ICBF operators for irregular acts and for not promoting children's rights.

## **B.3 Recruitment Prevention**

### **B.3.1 Youth Initiatives and Participation**

Prevention Strategy Coverage			
Region	Accumulated Initiatives	Initiatives/Quart	Beneficiaries/Quarter
Antioquia	6		314
Cundinamarca	2		820
Bolívar	29	4	799
Santander	18		530
Sucre	25	3	682
Putumayo	7		360
Valle	1		250
Total	88	7	3.755

This quarter, technical assistance and financial support was provided for 81 initiatives in seven departments with the participation of 3,755 youths. This quarter, seven initiatives were expanded to cover 200 new youths in Montes de María; actions are focused on training youths to participate in the formulation of public policies for youth and recruitment prevention, through projects on education, culture, recreation, sports, youth organization and participation, coexistence and income generation.

During the reporting period, the project with "Barras" (support groups) was consolidated. The project aims to improve social coexistence in the city of Cali; 250 youths are being trained as peaceful mediators and in musical skills.

### **B.3.2 Sensitizing Campaigns**



The sensitizing and training project for journalists began this quarter. These journalists are responsible for covering childhood and adolescence issues and their problems. The project aims to help them adequately approach the recruitment of children and adolescents and to sensitize Colombian society on the issue. In cooperation with PANDI (agency of journalists that support the rights of children), the first seminar on recruitment took place in Medellín with the participation of 284 journalists, students and teachers. The participation of four child-journalists from the “Siembra Paz” (plant peace) Program is worth highlighting.

### **B.3.3 Strengthening Government Institutions and Civil Organizations**

This quarter, technical assistance and financial support activities were implemented within the framework of the cooperation agreements with AGO, ICBF, Antioquia’s Departmental Board on Recruitment Prevention, Governors’ Offices of Antioquia, Meta, Casanare, “Red Desarrollo y Paz” Foundation of Montes de María (Peace and Development Network Foundation), “Restrepo Barco” Foundation, among others, to move forward on the formulation of strategies and on the articulation of interinstitutional programs to prevent the recruitment of boys, girls and adolescents by illegal armed groups.

### **B.3.4 Monitoring and Follow up**

Training - DEVINFO			
Technical Processes	Workshops by Department	No. of Participants	Institutions
Training on Devinfo information system.	Bogotá (June 25-29) Meta, Cundinamarca, Atlántico, Boyacá, Tolima, Valle del Cauca	26	Governors’ Offices of Casanare, Tolima, Cundinamarca, Atlántico and Boyacá; ICBF Regional Office in Meta; “Colombia Joven”; PNUD; OIM
	Medellín, Antioquia (June 19-23)	14	Governors’ Offices of Antioquia (Offices of: Health, Education, Planning, Social Participation, and Equity; Childhood Program, Information, Displaced Population Office) Governors’ Offices of Meta; ACNUR; IOM.

Progress was made this quarter in the design of the Departmental and Municipal Information Systems for Recruitment Prevention and Early Warnings. One strategic route is technical support to strengthen Municipal Childhood Observatories (monitoring entities), through the transference of the Devinfo methodology and the creation of indicators focused on recruitment prevention. These actions have taken place in the Departments of Antioquia, Meta and Casanare.

Devinfo is a tool designed to process databases, generate diagnoses and evaluations for those in charge of making programmatic decisions and of the formulation of public policies on childhood, with emphasis on recruitment prevention.

### **B.4 Special Support to Indigenous and Afro-Colombian Communities**

#### **Main Objective**

The Prevention Component provides technical and financial support to government entities, ethnic communities and organizations to promote the rights of ethnic groups, social organization, territorial rights, and adequate living standards that help develop and protect the life of children and adolescents, prevent their recruitment by illegal armed groups (IAG), and support the return and insertion processes of indigenous and Afro-Colombian children and youths disengaged from IAG

#### **B.4.1 Common Rights and Legal Roadmap**

This quarter, a workshop was held in Pasto on the legal roadmap for indigenous populations. The workshop was jointly organized by the Governor’s Office of Nariño and ICBF. A total of 20 civil servants and 50 representatives of indigenous councils (cabildos) of the Pastos, Awa and other indigenous groups participated in the event. Issues such as community modalities for the reestablishment of rights for indigenous boys and girls disengaged from illegal armed groups were

also addressed.

#### ***B.4.2 Strengthening Organizations and Culture by Exercising the self-determination principle***

To continue with the strengthening of indigenous organizations in Nariño, Cesar, Cauca and Meta several workshops have been held on community development, youth participation, cultural and educational initiatives and project formulation, follow up and accompaniment agreements.

With the communities of Cauca, Nariño, Cesar and Meta actions have been implemented on food security, recuperation of cultural practices, and strengthening self-governance. The communities part of these projects are: the Sikuni in Meta; Arhuacos in Cesar; Paeces, Guambianos, Yanacunas, Kokonucos in Cauca and Pastos in Nariño.

#### ***B.4.3 Support to Social Investment Initiatives with Emphasis on Cultural Respect and Revitalization***

This quarter, technical assistance and financial support was given to projects implemented in the departments of Nariño, Cauca, César, Meta, Sucre and Valle, with the participation of 2.438 youths from ethnic groups (2.288 indigenous and 150 afro descendants). New beneficiaries entered the program this quarter: 342 youths from the Sikuni indigenous group in Meta, 24 from the Arhuacos in César, 54 Zenues and 868 from the Pastos in Nariño. Out of the 1000 indigenous Paeces, Guambianos, Yanacunas and Kokonucos in Cauca, 300 youths are now beneficiaries of the program.

Social Investment Initiatives			
Line	No. Initiatives	Beneficiaries	
		Indigenous	Afros
Ethno education	9	1770	0
Education	4	140	150
Culture	1	54	0
Productive	2	324	0
Total	16	2.288	150
		2.438	

This quarter, support continued to be provided for educational, cultural and productive projects; projects on food security from indigenous groups from Cauca were also promoted this quarter. Out of the 16 supported initiatives, 56,2 percent (9 cases) are based on strengthening ethno education models. Likewise, 25 percent of the initiatives (4 cases) are for improving the quality of integral education and vocational training in schools. One of the initiatives was oriented towards the recuperation of traditions, ways and customs; two were oriented towards strengthening food security and income generation.

Indicators	Accumulated 2001 - 2005	Current Period	Accumulated During Phase III	Observations (Way in which these results were achieved)
Outcome Indicators: <b>Result 1- 2:</b>				
1,500 public employees trained in administrative and legal procedures.	2,104	40	1.147 public servants	- Technical training to public servants.
Three policy issues addressed and implementation mechanisms in place	<p>The issue of child recruitment included into the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Public agenda</li> <li>- 10-Year Action Plan for Children</li> <li>- New Statutory Law on Children</li> <li>- Social and Youth Policy Councils in 42 municipalities in 13 departments</li> </ul>	<p>- Sensitizing campaigns on the New Childhood Code.</p> <p>- The routes for formulating public policies are disseminated.</p>	4 Departments:  Antioquia, Meta, Valle and Casanare	- Technical assistance on information systems, indicators and institutional impact of the new Childhood and Adolescence Law.
Outcome Indicators: Result 3:				
9,000 children and 2,500 adults (27 municipalities in nine departments) participating in prevention activities (Vulnerability, Risk and Opportunity Maps – MVRO)	<p>8,942 children</p> <p>394 adults</p> <p>42 municipalities</p> <p>10 departments</p>	200 youths	<p>5.048 youths</p> <p>314 adults</p> <p>20 Municipalities</p> <p>7 Departments</p>	- Technical and financial assistance to initiatives that allow youth's access to social and institutional services. Support in the formulation of plans and projects for recruitment prevention.
500 community leaders trained	1,800	31	456 youths	- Workshop to train leaders from youth organizations of the region of Montes de María.
2,000 local civil servants trained	2,078	75	725 civil society members	- Technical assistance through training of community leaders in charge of the initiatives.
Awareness campaign targeting in 9,000,000 people	9,368,192 people	284 participants in the workshop implemented with PANDI in Medellín	<p>- Sensitizing activities for the media and journalists for the coverage of news and transmission of messages against the use of children in the armed conflict.</p> <p>- Articles on discussed issues published in El Colombiano (88.000 copies) and El Tiempo (35,000) Newspapers</p>	- Articulation of the dissemination strategies of with journalists and the media.



girls from indigenous and Afro – Colombian communities assisted in three years.			children demobilized from illegal armed groups attended.	agreements with indigenous organizations for the assistance of youths disengaged from IAG and returned to their communities.
2,500 indigenous and Afro-Colombian children and 1,400 adults participating in prevention activities.	4,349 indigenous and Afro-Colombian children 1,550 adults	300 indigenous youths from Cauca  26 adults participated in the MIMA transference workshop	2.563 youths  280 Adults	- Technical and financial support for the implementation of income generation projects and strengthening access to social services. - Information strategies and transference of pedagogical tools such as the MIMA.
170 indigenous authorities trained.	<b>276</b> indigenous leaders trained	50 participants from Pastos and Awa indigenous groups	355 indigenous authorities trained.	The transference of pedagogical and training tools on collective rights continue.

### A Beneficiary Group's Story

*The “Arenal” neighborhood of the city of Barrancabermeja, has approximately 500 youths between 12 and 16 years of age, some enrolled in formal education and some not. In order to create spaces where youths could make good use of their free time, a youth group was created. The group initiated with eight youths in 1997 in the house of Blanca Nossa, where they met every Sunday at 4:00. The meetings were lead by Rev. Ariel Rene Urbina Gálviz, who guided the meetings and the activities.*

*The group has gained recognition in the community and has maintained good youth participation during the years. The youths and their families trust the group.*

*The group has had crises but has grown from them. It also has many anecdotes some sad like when a member retired to enroll in school, and some happy ones, like the ones regarding theater presentations for mothers' day, St. Valentine's Day, group anniversaries, etc. The group has also survived tragedies such as the assassination of one of its members, which almost caused the group to end because the youths were labeled, judged and condemned by the community.*

*What did they do to get out of this situation? They received support from the Parish and some crucial decisions were made: to continue with the group or end it in fear of being the target of illegal armed groups. But the unconditional support from Father Pepe, today Bishop of the Dioceses of Granada, was fundamental as he exhorted the community to continue working for the youths.*

*The group is working now thanks to the credibility, and trust the community has deposited in the leader of the group; but nothing is for free, there have been crises among the youths, when they don't go to the meetings or when they have social or family difficulties to face. Every youth has lived his/her own experience, and the members of the group have felt those experiences as their own. it is not easy to say I don't get involved with IAG, because the youth will say “What do you have to offer if my family is hungry and I am all my mother's got?”.*

*With the formation they are receiving, youths can create their own labor opportunities, without doing something illegal, without watching their friends be killed, those friends friend with whom they shared their childhood, not being able to do anything to save them, and not having to hide in fear when they see someone get killed, having to keep quiet and suffering from the subsequent nightmares and heartache.*

*This is only told amongst them, but they do it in whispers, because they cannot speak out loud, because as they say “we are among natives, but no one knows who the “Cacique” (chief) is”.*

*These youths are part of a youth group that enables them to find new ways of life and to build their life projects. These are normal youngsters who cry, laugh, and live happy with who they are and what they have. They value life, their families and friendship very much, even if they fight. They are willing to change their reality, because they can and because they say “if we don't change this situation, no one will do it for us, but we need to know how”.*

Youth Group JOBUES  
Animator: Yolima Barrientos C

## 5. LESSONS LEARNED

- The interest of the youths in performing reparation actions and the success of the recruitment prevention campaigns among youths (formerly recruited youths with those at risk of recruitment) for the implementation of the project with the “Foundation for Reconciliation”, has been evident.
- The interinstitutional boards organized for the mental health project represent a successful strategy for the restitution of rights of the boys and girls in the Program.
- The effectiveness of youth initiatives as a recruitment prevention strategy increases depending on the organization of the initiatives and the support they receive from the social networks in their communities.

## 6. PRIORITIES FOR THE COMING TERM

- Work with disengaged boys and girls from the CROJ will be strengthened through the “Hogar Gestor” modality.
- Establish an agreement with “ACR” and design a transference strategy for the CROJ.
- The transference of the MIMA methodology to SENA will take place next term. SENA will use this tool for the formulation of productive projects for vulnerable populations.
- Jointly with ICBF and other project implementers a strategy will be designed to provide complementary support to disengaged boys and girls for the duration of the project.
- The internship of the two youths that traveled to Canada will conclude next term and feedback sessions will be held with the youngsters, family attorney, the Embassy of Canada, the technical team from Canada and IOM's team, to be able to systematize the experience.
- Another priority will be to move forward on the systematization of prevention initiatives, to establish the intervention models implemented and allow the identification of practices, methodologies and scenarios where recruitment prevention actions were more effective and achieved greater coverage.

## 7. CONSTRAINTS AND ACTIONS TAKEN

- The adjustments to the reintegration policy of ACR are generating uncertainty among beneficiaries. To counteract these effects and give continuity to the articulation process, the Local Articulation Committees strategy will be resumed, with the assistance of the regional delegates of the AGO to make sure that these entities provide the agreed services to the youths.
- The lack of information systems that provide early warnings signs to prevent the recruitment of boys, girls and adolescents difficults timely and effective implementation of prevention actions. The intensity of the electoral process, as well as the rearming of demobilized groups and the upsurge of new armed groups allied to urban and rural gangs, continue to increase the risk of recruitment of children and adolescents, which makes the design and implementation of prevention actions more complex.

## 8. CONCLUSIONS

- The Program, through the Assistance Component, is supporting the transference of the CROJ to the ACR to make sure youths coming from the ICBF Program receive special assistance. The changes generated by the Reintegration policy of the ACR, have

created an atmosphere of uncertainty among the youths; the teams of the CROJs are implementing retention strategies.

- The approval by SENA of the Integral Model for Marketing and Business Administration (MIMA in Spanish) is an important step towards institutional strengthening. This methodology will assist vulnerable population in the formulation business initiatives.
- The “Hogar Gestor” Modality with subsidy was implemented this quarter in the Departments of: Cundinamarca, Tolima, Boyacá, and Cesar covering Guajira, Atlántico and Magdalena. The modality allows the child to live with family and everyone in the family group benefits through technical assistance, financial support for productive initiatives, psychosocial orientation, education and, health services, among others.
- The final versions of the pedagogical training tools were delivered to the AGO this quarter (CD, booklet and virtual course on legalization issues) which are to be used as electronic information and training tools for attorneys and judges. Regarding public policies for recruitment prevention, the elaboration of the protocol for public attorneys continued this quarter so that they can adequately follow up the reestablishment process of the rights of boys and girls disengaged from illegal armed groups,
- The Prevention component strategies continue to be strengthened with regards to the formulation of public policies on childhood and adolescence, training on and dissemination of the new Childhood and Adolescence Code, support to youth initiatives and participation and sensitizing campaigns.
- The project is strengthening indigenous and Afro Colombian communities through productive, cultural and educational projects.

## 9. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Please see attached financial report